

Congressman Filemon Vela

(34th District of Texas)



Small Business Brief

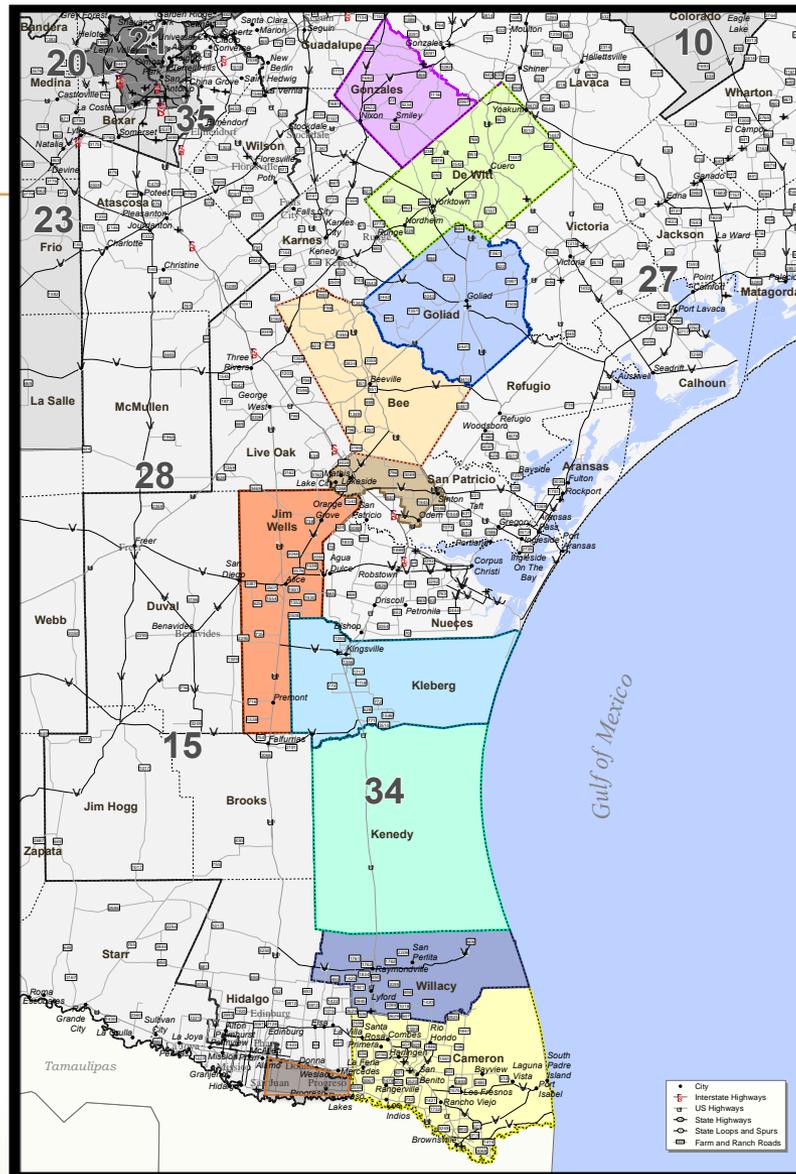
Texas New Congressional District 34

Anchored in Cameron County
(414,000 of roughly 700,000)

Willacy and Kenedy County

Section of Hidalgo County:

- Weslaco
- Donna
- Alamo
- San Juan



Northern counties of Kleberg,
Jim Wells, Bee, Goliad, DeWitt,
with portions of San Patricio
and Gonzales County with the
following cities:

- Kingsville
- Alice
- Sinton
- Beeville
- Cuero
- Goliad

Texas House District 38- Rep. Eddie Lucio III



Learn more about the District

Congressman Vela's Committee Assignments



- Agriculture Committee
 - Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management
 - Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit
- Homeland Security Committee
 - Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies

Representative Lucio's Committee Assignments



- Vice chair of Calendars (Procedural) Committee
- Natural Resources Committee
- Special Purpose Districts Committee
- Federalism & Fiscal Responsibility Select Committee

The Affordable Care Act “ACA”

[Helpful Information for Small Businesses]



*Compiled from information found at HealthCare.gov

Affordable Care Act Timeline

2010

The Affordable
Care Act
becomes law

2011

ACA Holds
Insurance
Companies
Accountable

2013

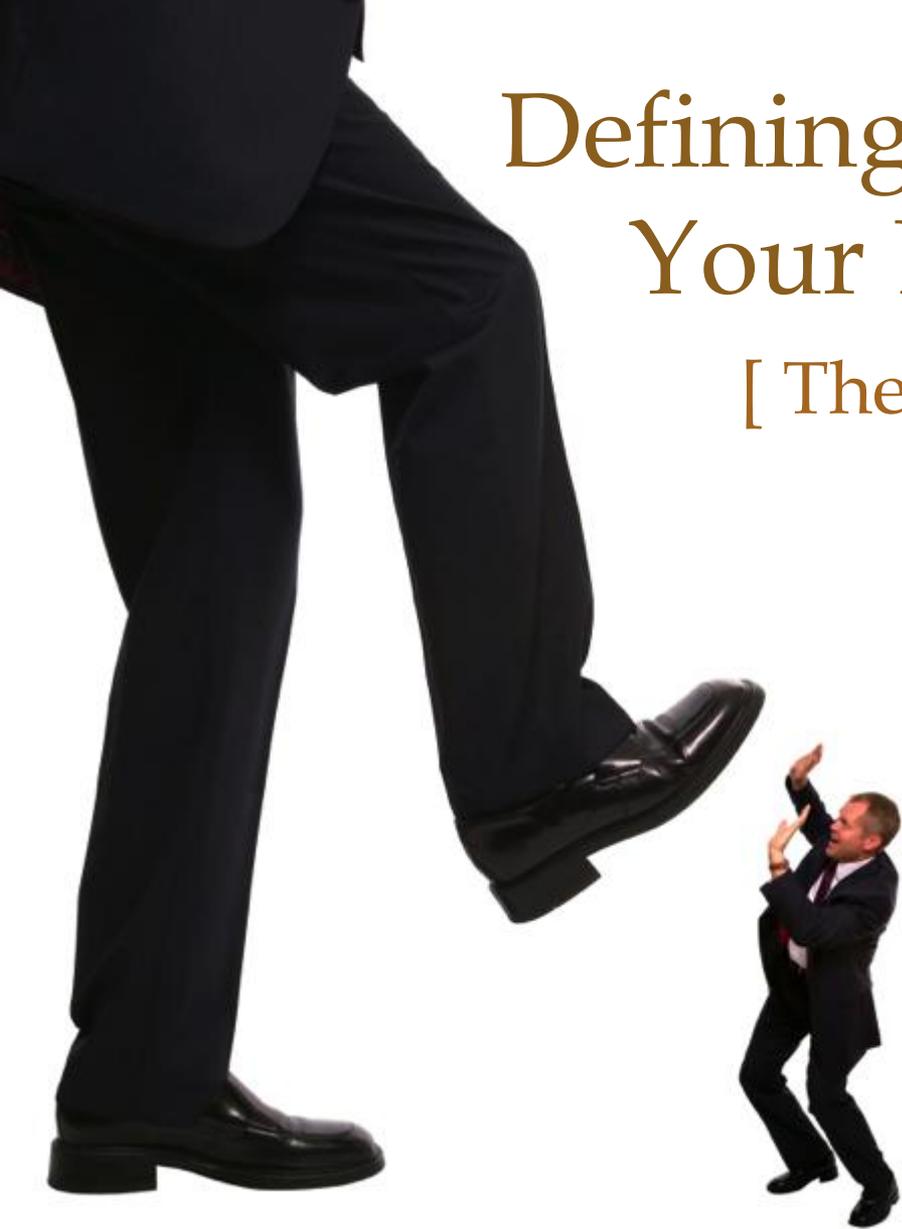
Open Enrollment
in the Health
Insurance
Exchanges
Begins

2014

The Health
Insurance
Exchanges **Open**

Defining the Size of Your Business

[The Basics]



Key Definitions

[Size of Business as defined by the ACA]

- Large Business:
 - **50 or more** full-time equivalent employees
- Small Business:
 - **49 or fewer** full-time equivalent employees



What is the SHOP Marketplace?

- The Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) is a new program that simplifies the process of buying health insurance for small businesses.
- For 2014, the SHOP Marketplace is open to employers with 50 or fewer full-time-equivalent employees (FTEs).
- The advantages of using SHOP includes:
 - Offered health care plans will provide essential healthcare benefits
 - Allows you to compare offered health care plans to determine which one fits you best
 - Possibly qualifying for a small business health care tax credit



The next 5 months



OCT

1

Open
Enrollment
Begins

JAN

1

Coverage
Begins

MAR

31

Open
Enrollment
Closes
(2014 only)

What is a Qualified Health Plan (QHP)?

A Qualified Health Plan is one that provides the benefits of the Affordable Care Act and includes essential health benefits such as:

- Preventative care/doctor visits
- Emergency care/hospitalization
- Maternity care
- Prescription drug coverage

Essential health benefits are defined by a benchmark plan in each state:

The Texas Benchmark is:
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas BestChoice Plan



Patient's Bill of Rights

It is illegal for insurance companies to:

- Deny coverage based on a pre-existing condition
- Put a lifetime or yearly cap on coverage
- End coverage for children under 26 who are enrolled through their parents' healthcare coverage

Will my Business get a Tax Credit?

- Employers may qualify for employer health care tax credits if employing 25 full-time equivalent employees making an average of about \$50,000 a year or less.
- To qualify for the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit, employers must pay at least 50% of full-time employees' premium costs.
- The tax credit is highest for companies with fewer than 10 employees who are paid an average of \$25,000 or less. The smaller the business, the bigger the credit.

This credit is available to employers only if they get coverage through the SHOP Marketplace.

▶ **Breaking NEWS**

The Obama administration recently announced it is delaying until 2015 the requirement that businesses with **50 or more** employees provide health insurance to their workers or pay a penalty.

Individual Coverage

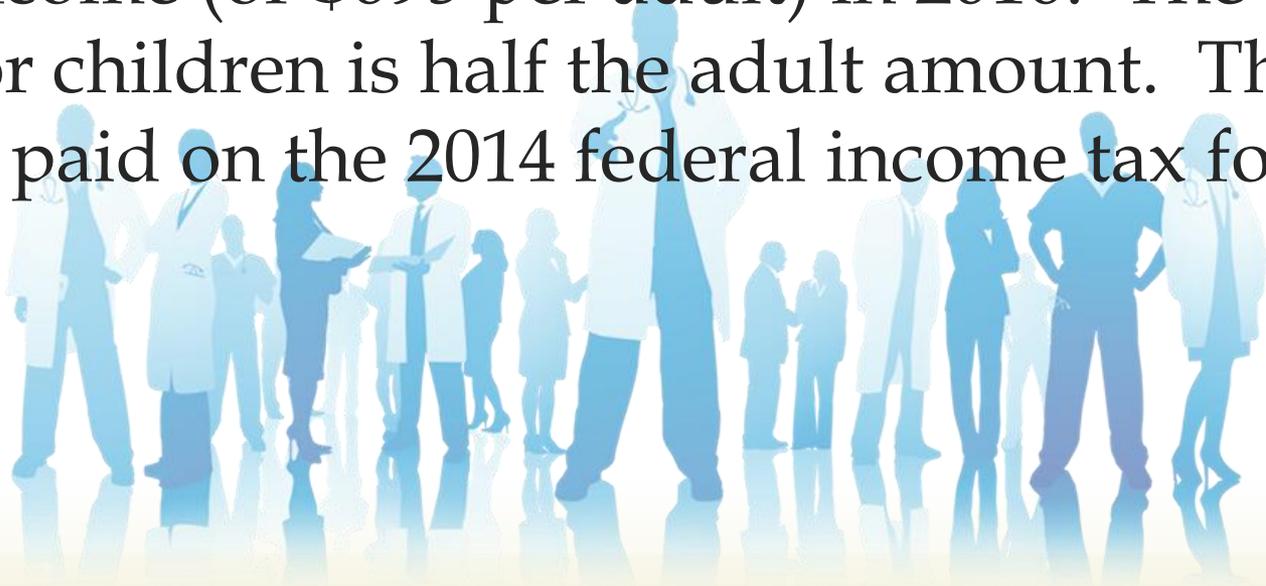
- An individual who gets coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace may be able to get lower costs on monthly premiums depending on income and family size.
- Premiums may be reduced through the Advance Premium Tax Credit

The Advance Premium Tax Credit

- The Advance Premium Tax Credit can be applied directly to monthly premiums.
- The amount of savings depends on family size and family income. Generally, if income falls within the following ranges, the Advanced Premium Tax Credit can be used to reduce monthly premium costs:
 - \$11,490 to \$45,960 for individuals
 - \$15,510 to \$62,040 for a family of 2
 - \$19,530 to \$78,120 for a family of 3
 - \$23,550 to \$94,200 for a family of 4
 - \$27,570 to \$110,280 for a family of 5
 - \$31,590 to \$126,360 for a family of 6

The Individual Mandate

- Starting in 2014, if someone doesn't have a health plan, he or she may have to pay a fee.
- From 1% of income (or \$95 per adult, whichever is higher) in 2014 to 2.5% of income (or \$695 per adult) in 2016. The fee for children is half the adult amount. The fee is paid on the 2014 federal income tax form



HealthCare.gov

Visit HealthCare.gov or Call **1-800-318-2596** available 24/7



The screenshot shows the HealthCare.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the HealthCare.gov logo on the left, and 'Learn' and 'Get Insurance' buttons in the center. On the right side of the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a language selector button labeled 'Español'. Below the navigation bar, there are three menu items: 'Individuals & Families', 'Small Businesses', and 'All Topics' with a dropdown arrow. The main content area features a dark blue header with the text 'Welcome to the new HealthCare.gov!' and a sub-header 'We've changed to help you get ready for the launch of the Health Insurance Marketplace on October 1. Learn about our changes—including where to find some content that used to appear on this site.' Below this, there is a large green banner with the text 'The Health Insurance Marketplace is coming soon' and a sub-header 'A new way to get affordable coverage launches October 1. Answer a few questions to learn if you qualify for lower costs.' A prominent green button labeled 'START NOW' is positioned at the bottom left of the banner. On the right side of the banner, there is a photograph of a smiling woman with dark hair.

Specific small business questions? Call 1-800-706-7893

My Congressional office is also available to answer questions through contacts within HHS.

Available Government Loan and Grant Programs for Small Businesses



Best Place to Start: business.usa.gov

BusinessUSA
Discover. Connect. Grow.

Tour

Resources

Events

About Us

Contact Us

Start Searching...

Search

Receive e-mail updates

Go



Start a Business



Grow Your Business



Access Financing



Begin Exporting



Expand Exporting



Help with Hiring
Employees



Find Opportunities



Browse Resources
For Veterans



Seek Disaster
Assistance



Learn About New
Health Care
Changes



Learn About Taxes
and Credits



Invest in the USA

Combines resources of 14 federal agencies to assist businesses

U.S. Small Business Administration

[Loan Programs Available]

- **Multiple Loan programs available, such as:**
 - 7(a) Loan Program
 - SBA Express
 - Patriot Express



Website: www.sba.gov

U.S. Small Business Administration



Your Small Business Resource

2422 E Tyler Ave Suite E
Harlingen, TX 78550

South Texas Offices

3649 Leopard St
Corpus Christi, TX 78408

SBA Loan Programs at a Glance

Program	Maximum Loan Amount	Percent of Guaranty	Who Qualifies
7(a) Loans	\$5 million gross	85% guaranty for loans of \$150,000 or less; 75% guaranty for loans greater than \$150,000	Must be a for profit business & meet SBA size standards; show good character, credit, management, and ability to repay. Must be an eligible type of business.
SBAExpress	\$350,000	50%	Same as 7(a)
Patriot Express	\$500,000	Same as 7(a)	Same as 7(a). In addition, small business must be owned and controlled by one or more of the following groups: veteran, active-duty military, reservist or National Guard member or a spouse of any of these groups, or a widowed spouse of a service member

U.S. Export-Import Bank

- The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) is the official export credit agency of the United States.
- Ex-Im Bank's mission is to assist in financing the export of U.S. goods and services to international markets.
- Ex-Im Bank enables U.S. companies – large and small – to turn export opportunities into real sales that help to maintain and create U.S. jobs and contribute to a stronger national economy.
- Ex-Im Bank provides working capital guarantees (pre-export financing); export credit insurance; and loan guarantees and direct loans (buyer financing).

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK
of the UNITED STATES



Visit: www.exim.gov

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program

- Program encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R&D) that has the potential for commercialization
- Each year, Federal agencies with extramural research and development (R&D) budgets that exceed \$100 million are required to allocate 2.5 percent of their R&D budget to these programs. Currently, eleven Federal agencies participate in the program

SBIR/STTR

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH
SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

www.sbir.gov

Minority Business Development Agency

- The MBDA is focused on increasing access to capital, contracts and new markets for minority-owned firms.
 - The agency has **Minority Business Centers** around the nation with business development specialists that can help you.
 - It also offers several **online business tools**: Phoenix-Opportunity, Business Locator, Business Plan Writer, and Resource Locator.



**MINORITY BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Visit:
www.mbda.gov

San Antonio Business Center
501 W Cesar E Chavez Blvd
San Antonio, TX 78207

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- **Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program (RBEG)**
 - Purpose: provide grants for rural project that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses.
 - typical applicants are EDC's, municipalities, and non-profits
- **Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan (B&I)**
 - Purpose: to improve, develop or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities.
 - Individuals and businesses can directly apply
- **Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)**
 - Purpose: to support the development and success of rural microentrepreneurs and microenterprises.
 - typical applicants are EDC's, municipalities, and non-profits



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Edinburg Area Office Roel Gomez
2514 South Veterans Blvd., Ste 4, Edinburg, TX
Phone: (956) 383-4928 x4 | Fax: (956) 383-6088

Visit: www.crees.usda.gov

U.S. Commercial Service

[Programs]

- The U.S. Commercial Service helps thousands of companies export goods and services worth billions of dollars.
- This service offers: trade counseling, market intelligence, business matchmaking, and commercial diplomacy
- In addition, they help you to develop trade finance and insurance strategies that align with your particular business objectives and help you complete your export transaction.



Visit: www.export.gov

Jobs for Texas (J4T)

[Programs Available]

- Jobs For Texas, or J4T, is an innovative program designed to increase small businesses' access to capital and enable private entrepreneurs to make market-driven decisions to grow jobs.
- To be considered for venture capital investment, a business must
 - 1) be based in Texas; and
 - 2) have 500 or fewer employees.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TODD STAPLES, COMMISSIONER

Visit: www.TexasAgriculture.gov

or call Joe Edgar at 512-463-6616

Available Private and Non-Profit Assistance



SCORE

- SCORE is a national network of over 14,000 entrepreneurs, business leaders and executives who volunteer as **mentors to America's small businesses.**
- SCORE can help you by:
 - Matching your specific needs with a business mentor
 - Traveling to your place of business for an on-site evaluation
 - Teaming with several SCORE mentors to provide you with tailored assistance in a number of business areas
- Across the country, SCORE offers nearly 7,000 **local business training, workshops, and seminars** ranging in topic and scope depending on the needs of the local business

Rio Grande Valley Score

2422 E. Tyler Ave. Suite E

Harlingen, TX 78550

gorur.ranganath@scorevolunteer.org

www.SCORE.org



FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS



Goldman Sachs

- Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses* program can give you the tools, support and financing you need to grow your company.
- If you're accepted, you'll get access to:
 - **Practical business and management education:** Leading business schools have partnered with local community colleges to develop classes that you can apply immediately to address critical issues with your business.
 - **Access to Capital:** You will be given the opportunity and tools to position your businesses to access loans.
 - **Business support services:** You will work one-on-one with dedicated professionals to develop a strategic and tailored growth plan for your business. Additional support services are available through partnerships with national and local business organizations, professional services firms and the people of Goldman Sachs.

Visit: www.goldmansachs.com

Accion Texas Inc.

- The Mission of Accion Texas (a non-profit) is to provide **credit and services to small businesses** and entrepreneurs who do not have access to loan from commercial sources and to provide leadership and innovation to the microlending industry.
- Accion provides support in:
 - Financial, management planning and budgeting
 - Business and strategic planning
 - Credit report review and planning
 - Legal structure, start-up and growth planning.

2300 Boca Chica Blvd. (Chase Bank Bldg.
2nd Floor)
Brownsville, Texas 78522 1-888-215-
2373 BrownsvilleMcAllen@acciontexas.org

ACCION

Visit: <http://brownsville.acciontexas.org>

Additional Resources

- www.business.gov
- www.score.org
- www.sbdcnet.org
- www.smallbusiness3.com
- www.texasonline.com
- www.usa.gov
- www.grants.gov
- www.frannet.com
- www.ccr.gov
- www.annualcreditreport.com



Grants and loans for small businesses may also be available at the state level.



CONGRESSMAN
FILEMON VELA
34TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS



District Director:
Marisela Cortez
Cell (956) 203-1340

District Director
Jose Pereida
Cell (361) 230-9776

District Director
Humberto Garza
(956) 203-9580

District Offices

333 Ebony Avenue
Street
Brownsville, TX 78520
956-544-8352

1390 W. Expressway 83
San Benito, TX 78586
956-203-1662

500 East Main
Suite 312A
Alice, Texas 78332

<http://vela.house.gov>